

Figures 5 and 6 show a side view and a cross-section respectively of a utensil according to the present invention. The shaped body 2 has the form of a door handle. The shaped body 2 comprises, as shown in particular in Figure 6, an outer active layer 4, which holds an antiseptic and/or antifungal agent which is tolerable to the skin, which is deposited on the surface 7. The active layer 4 is preferably formed of a porous material and is either applied as a separate layer on the shaped body 2, or forms an integral part of the shaped body 2, which is fortified with the antiseptic or bactericidal agent.

Utensils having an outer active layer 4 provided with the above mentioned agents can be formed as a wide variety of parts, for example door handles, window handles, handles of all sorts, tools, work surfaces and appliances.

#### Claims

1. A sheath for covering or wrapping a utensil or a part thereof which comes frequently into touch contact with human skin comprising a carrier element, characterized in that said carrier element (2) comprises at least an outer active layer (4) which holds an antiseptic or antifungal agent, which does not irritate the skin, so as to sterilise the surface (7) of the active layer (4).
2. A sheath according to Claim 1, characterized in that the active layer (4) comprises at least an additional non irritant bactericide.
3. A sheath according to Claim 1, characterized in that the outer active layer (4) is composed of a porous material.
4. A sheath according to Claim 1, 2 or 3, characterized in that the outer active layer (4) is covered by a porous protective layer, which allows the antiseptic or antifungal agent, and the bactericide, to leak out to the outer layer (7).
5. A sheath according to any preceding claim, characterized in that the active layer (4) contains colloidal silver as an antiseptic active ingredient.
6. A sheath according to any preceding claim, characterized in that the active layer (4) is disposed upon a carrier element (2).
7. A carrier element according to Claim 6, characterized in that the active layer (4) comprises a gelatine layer containing colloidal silver, which has a hardened, resistant, protection layer (6).

8. A protection element according to Claim 6 or 7, characterized in that an adhesive layer (8) is disposed on an opposite side of the carrier element (2) to the active layer (4).

9. A sheath according to any preceding claim, characterized in that the carrier element (2) is formed as a shaped body (10), the inner measurement thereof corresponding to the outer measurement of the part that the carrier element is intended to cover, and that the outer surface thereof carries the active layer (4).

10. A carrier element according to Claim 9, characterized in that the shaped body (10) is formed as a fitted sleeve, from a plastic material, such that it can be removably fitted to door handles, door knockers, window fittings etc.

11. A sheath according to Claim 9 or 10, characterized in that the shaped body (10) comprises shaped support areas (14).

12. A sheath according to any of Claims 1 to 5, characterized in that the carrier element (2) consists of flexible strips.

13. A utensil which comes frequently into contact with human skin and having a shaped body, characterized in that said shaped body (2) comprises at least an outer active layer (4), which contains an antiseptic or antifungal agent which does not irritate the skin, so as to sterilise the surface (7) of the utensil.

14. A utensil according to Claim 13, characterized in that the active layer (4) comprises at least an additional non irritant bactericide.

15. A utensil according to Claim 13 or 14, characterized in that the outer active layer (4) is composed of a porous material.

16. A utensil according to any of Claims 13 to 15, characterized in that the outer active layer (4) is covered by a porous protective layer, which allows the antiseptic or antifungal agent, and the bactericide, to leak out to the outer layer (7).

17. A utensil according to any of Claims 13 to 16, characterized in that the active layer (4) contains colloidal silver as an antiseptic active ingredient.

18. A utensil according to any of Claims 13 to 17, characterized in that the active layer (4) is disposed upon a carrier element (2).

19. A method of producing a utensil or sheath according to any of Claims 1 to 18 having a porous shaped body or carrier element, characterized in that the shaped body or carrier element is soaked in a salt solution, and dried and then exchanged with a dilute silver nitrate solution so as to produce silver chloride, said silver chloride then being reduced to colloidal silver by a reduction means.

20. A method of producing a sheath according to any of Claims 1 to 12, characterized in that a gelatine solution is mixed with a silver nitrate solution diluted with sodium chloride or potassium bromide solution, and then placed on a carrier element, and then reduced so that it solidifies, and then hardened in formaldehyde.

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